

32
PAGES
ALL NEW
ART
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#25

Yes, here at last is #25 in this unique series
our best issue to date featuring

The Return of The Madman
and much more

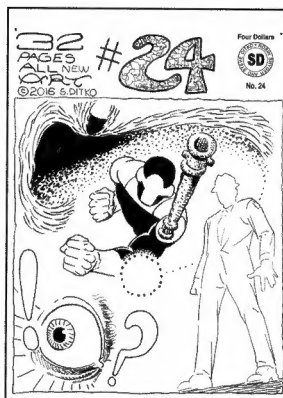
A Snyder and Ditko publication
Autumn 2016 \$4 USA



PREVIOUSLY

Introduction

UNDER THE GUN



Tell me, who was it who first declared, proclaiming it to the whole world, that a man does evil only because he does not know his real interests, and if he is enlightened and has his eyes opened to his own best and normal interests, man will cease to do evil and at once become virtuous and noble, because when he is enlightened and understands what will really benefit him he will see his own best interest in virtue, and since it is well known that no man can knowingly act against his best interests, consequently he will inevitably, so to speak, begin to do good. Oh, what a baby!

Dostoyevsky, Notes from Underground

THIS MONTH

#25

Autumn 2016

Edited, Published and

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and Steve Ditko

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We wish to acknowledge the assistance of

Selene Finrow, Olivia Fox and Rose Nerad without whom...

Eight years and all these issues later, we are celebrating the publication of the 25th issue in this unique series.

This all began in 2008 with The Avenging Mind. How many features, how many characters, how many themes, how many original ideas, have we introduced since that number? Which one is your favorite? Why? Don't be bashful; write to us.

Rob Imes wonders if there are not more pages in this series than any other Ditko worked on. Ole M. Olsen figures this amounts to 800 pages in 25 issues. What do you think?

This marks Lucky Campaign #13 in Kickstarter and those who have made this such a success are worthy of recognition.

And so we dedicate this issue to...

COMING

ATTRACTION



David Williams, Scott Rowland, Tom Campbell, Michael Tomasulo, Zack Kruse, Nick Caputo, Lou Valenti, Mike DeLisa, Gene Hall, Bruce Simon, Michael Hoskin, Ira Schimel, Ken Case (who made the 13th pledge), Quentin Chaney, Mark Wheatley, Brent Zustiak, Sitcomics, Rodrigo Baeza, Paul Smith, Dale Detwiler, Ole M. Olsen, Donald Kaake, Jeff Douglas, Daniel Molnar, Neil Anderson, Javier Hernandez, Joe Hollon, Mark Byzewski, Peter A. Rose, Kirk Spencer, J. Kevin Carrier, Thad Boyd, Denny 'dennmann' Riccelli, Philip Haxo, Barry Pearl, Denis Parry, Chuck Arnold, J. War, Kendall Whitehouse,

Mario Muscar, Chris Marshall, Maria Galloway, David A. Wendt, Mike Hill, Jackie Estrada, Lynn Walker, Kevin

THE MADMAN | ZANE, A PROSPEROUS, SMALL CITY IN THE 1930s....
 ©2016 S. Ditko | WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE STOP HIM? | ...GANG BOSSSES SCARED... | ...POLICE HELP-LESS... | WHO IS SAFE? | LET US PRAY...
 OH, GOD! WHERE WILL MADDER STRIKE NEXT... | ...SOB...



...HAVE TO GET RID
OF * MADDER...OR...



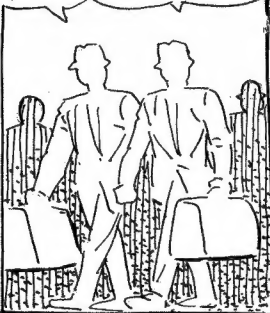
...OR I'M FINISHED!
NO! SOMEHOW...
SOMEBODY...



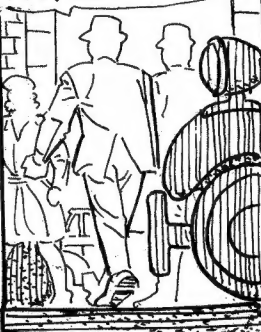
CAN'T GIVE UP ALL MY
TAKEOVER PLANS...
NO!



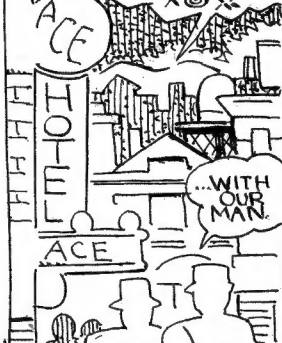
...CHECK... THEN GET AN
IDEA OF WHAT
IS GOING ON...



...BEFORE WE MAKE
ANY CONTACT...



...HOW? WHO?



...IMPRESSION OF A
TELEPHONE NUMBER...
IF... IF I CAN IDENTIFY
IT... IF...



...COULD LEAD TO WHO
IS BEHIND EVERY-
THING... DONE TO ROSE
MADDER...



...AND WHAT ELSE...
SOMETHING UNKNOWN...
...BIG GOING ON...



XO...YAH...LOSING CASES... ANOTHER NICE PAY-OFF...



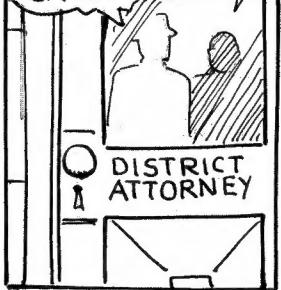
...STEALING, SELLING EVIDENCE... GUILTY GETTING OFF...



...SOME SOB...HAD GUY AT CITY HALL... GAMBLING DEBTS...



...YOU WON'T LOSE ANY MORE CASES... I DIDN'T KNOW...



...NO PROOF... CAN'T PROVE... YET...



...LIKE TO NAIL HIM, TOO... CITY HALL WON'T LIKE THIS, XO...



XO CAPTAIN ...# HE CAN'T BE BOUGHT, CONTROLLED...



BUT WE CAN'T LET HIM KEEP RUINING OUR BEST DEALS... NO...



MADDER... ENOUGH CRIME GETTING OUT OF CONTROL... PUBLIC VOICE... XO FEDS MOVE IN...



YET, NEED HIM, A GOOD SCAPEGOAT

..AND EXPOSE US. SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

WHAT'S TO BE DONE? SOMEHOW... SOME ONE... (3.

WHAT WE'RE LOSING
NOW, ALEX? MONEY... X@#



TOO MUCH
UNCER-
TAINTY.

SCARES
EVERY-
ONE

ALL BECAUSE OF X@
MADDER GOING
WACCO...X@ WHY?



WE HAVE TO
DEAL WITH
HIM... OR HE'LL
BRING US
ALL DOWN!
#@



YAH!
SURE.. HOW? X@#

...TWO FROM BIG CITY...
NO CALLS... I'LL POINT
THEM
OUT



...TELL BAGE... THIS
SMELLS BAD...



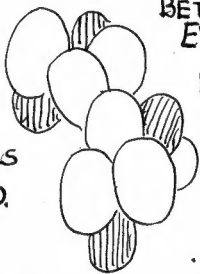
WHO
KILLED... MY
ROSE.



WHEN WILL IT END...

NOT
HURT-
ING
US.

ONLY
CRIMINALS
BEING
PUNISHED.



IT'S
BETWEEN
EVILS..

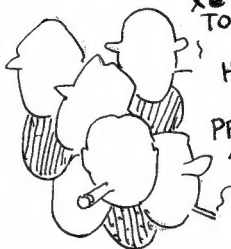
POLICE
HELP-
LESS..

..LET
US
PRAY.

PUTTING CRAMPS ON ALL
OUR SCHEMES...

NOT
SAFE
TRY-
ING
TO
PULL
ANY
JOB..

RISK
IT?
AH,
IT WILL BLOW OVER SOON. DOES.



XO COPS
TOO ALERT
NOW..
HA! HA! HA!
STILL
SOME
PROFITABLE
ANGLES.

#O
PRAY
IT
DOES.

WHAT NEXT?

...YOU HELPED OUR
NEEDY CAUSE AGAIN.



...ALWAYS GLAD
TO HELP OUT

...WHERE CAN I GET A
HELP...GETTING TOO
HOT FOR ME...



..BOSSES TOO SUSPI-
CIOUS OF EVERYONE..
EVERYTHING...#O
MADDER...YOUR
FAULT...



IT
WILL
SOON BE
ALL
OVER.

YAH. SAME OVER THE
CITY..OUR MAN,
FAILING...



...REPORT TO "FIRST"
BIG CITY..



...SEE OUR...YAH...
MAN...THEN...



...PHONE
NUMBER
UNLISTED...
...BLIND OFFICE,
ABANDONED
NOW WHAT...



WELL,
JUDGE?

...YES... YES...
EVIDENCE
TAMPERING
RE-ARREST
HIM...



DON'T
PLAY
GAMES
WITH
THE
LAW...

W...WHAT DOES
HE KNOW... CAN
HE PROVE...
...JUST
SUGGEST-
ING...



...YES,
BIG
CITY
GUYS...
...SO BIG
PLANS... WAS
MADDER IN-
VOLVED... HOW?



...HAS TO
BE A
CONTACT,
FRONT
MAN, HERE
IN PLACE.

...SOMEONE
BIG, IMPOR-
TANT.

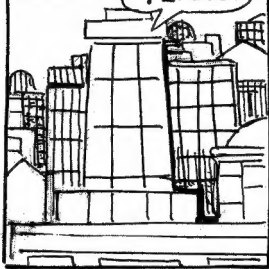


I'LL
STICK
WITH
THEM.

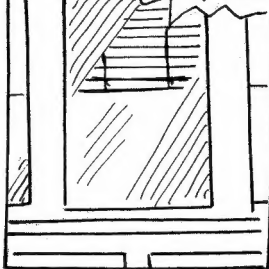
I'LL DO SOME
CHECKING...
HOW MADDER
FITS IN...?



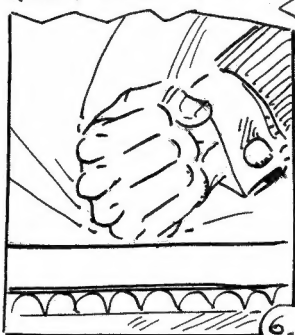
...REPORT
NOT
GOOD
XOX...
...HOW TO
CORRECT...
BE ABLE TO
SAVE OUR
PLANS?



...CAN'T
SCRAP!
...CAN'T MOVE
IN... NOT YET...
HOW TO DEAL
WITH OUR
MAN?



...WE HAVE TO VOTE...

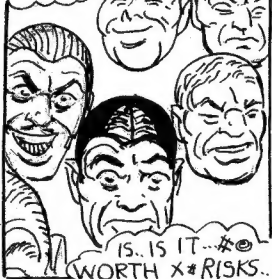


WE PLAY IT SAFE...FOR MY BOYS WON'T LIKE IT.
I'M NOT PASSING UP ANY BIG SCORES



WHO DOES X@ MADDER

X@ # MONEY TO BE MADE... MY PLAN CAN WORK... RISK IT?



IS... IS IT... X@ WORTH X# RISKS..

NO } X@ } BECAUSE MADDER.. X@ } CHOICE



...IF... IF.. A

..GANG BOSSES JUMPY. SOME WILL TAKE RISKS.



WORST YET TO COME.

WE'LL KEEP PRESSURE ON. ..CHECK SOME BIG CITY TELEPHONE CALLS.



HAS TO BE A CONNECTION.

..TOO } WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE CLEAR THINGS UP? X@ }



WHERE MADDER STRIKE NEXT? SHOULD COULD, M..MAY.. BE...

ALEX

X@ IN THE #DARK.. WHO...

YOU WERE ALWAYS A DOUBLE-CROSSER...



AH! NO, MADDER

NOT ME! I ALWAYS RESPECTED ROSIE, YOU KNOW.



...NOT } WHEW..WHAT HIM... } A CLOSE CALL.. SAFE NOW.



...SHE TIPPED ME OFF...



...ON THE MOVE...



...CAREFUL...CAN BE SUSPICIOUS...



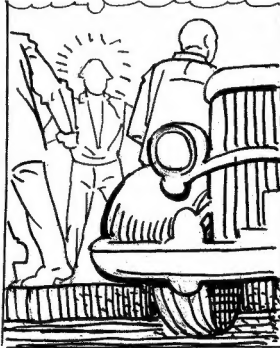
...W...WHAT!?



...SPLIT UP...



...LOST IN THE CROWD



...DIDN'T NOTICE ANY TAIL...

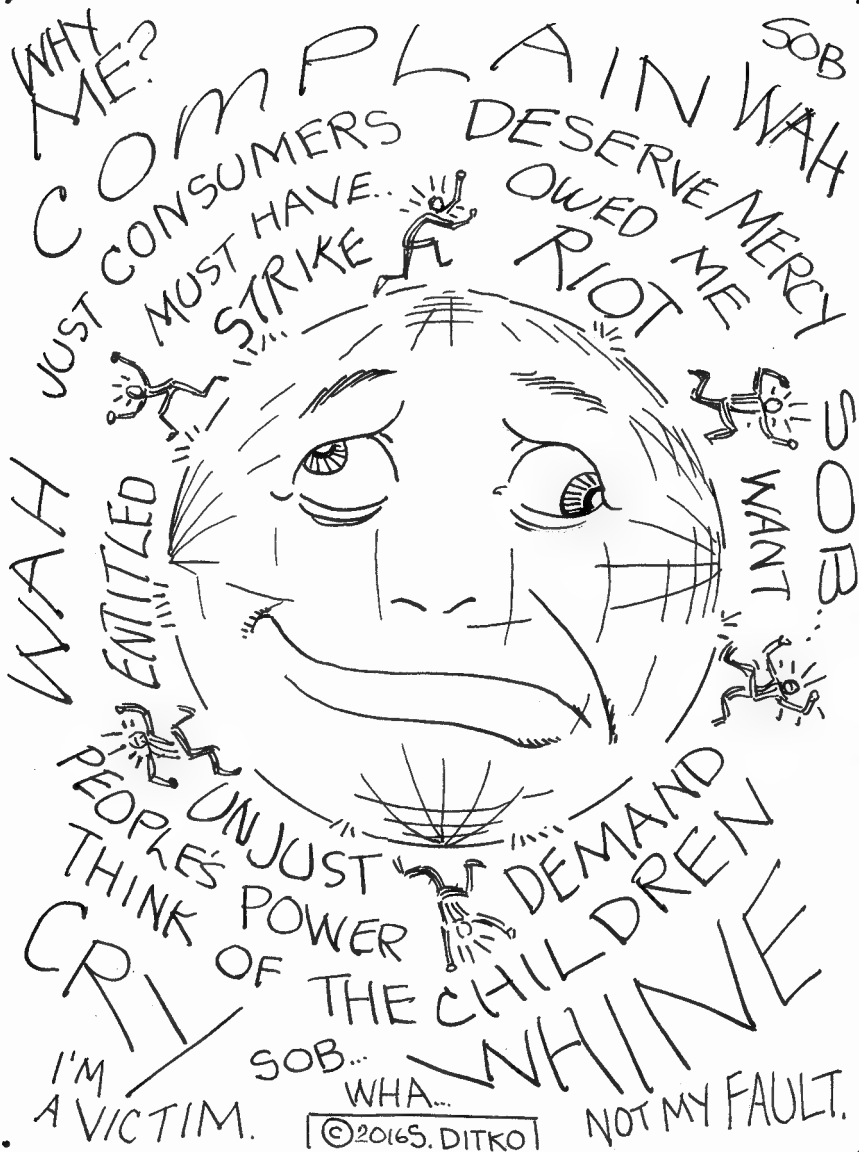


...BEST...PLAY IT SAFE...



...WE'RE FROM I...I WAS EXPECTING YOU.





WHY ME?

COMPLAIN

SOB

WANT

DESERVE MERCY

OWED ME

RIOT

SOB

WANT

WHY

ENTITLED

PEOPLE'S UNJUST POWER OF THE CHILDREN

CRIES

I'M A VICTIM.

SOB...

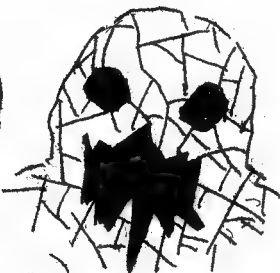
WHA...

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NOT MY FAULT.

MEMORY LANE

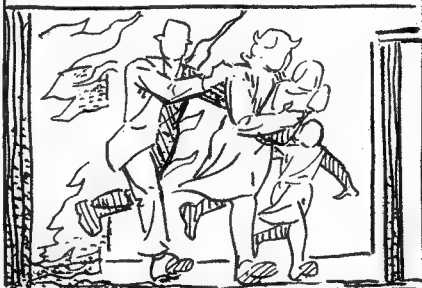
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...MAN AT HIS WORST...



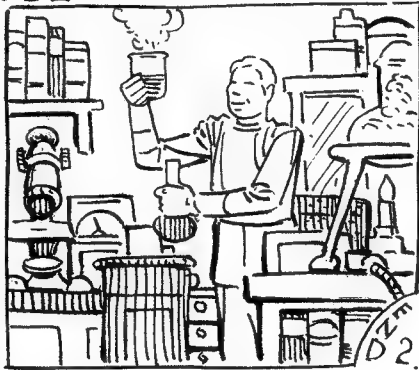
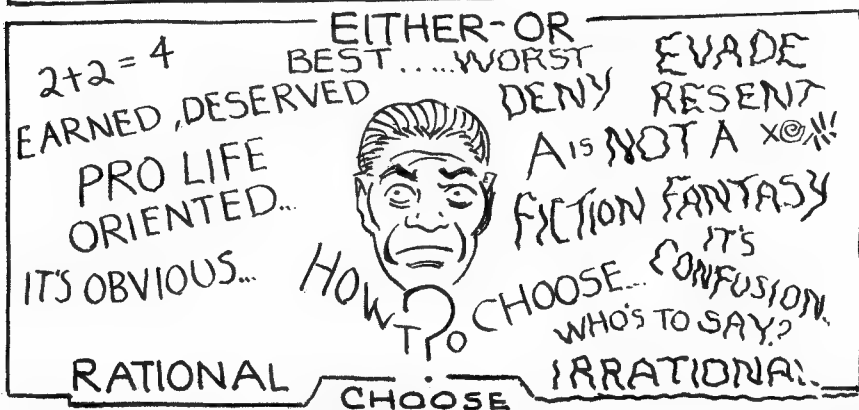
MAN AT HIS BEST...



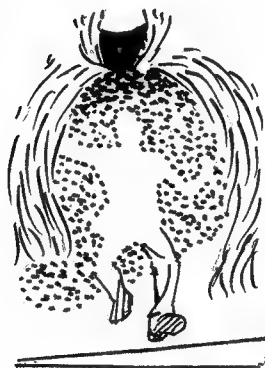
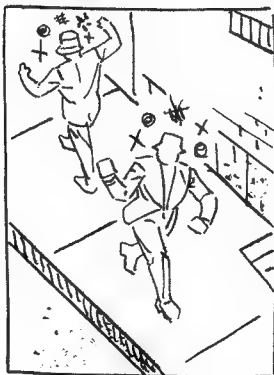
... A HEROIC ACT WILL ...

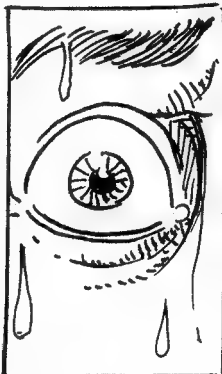
...ANGER...
SHOW OFF......ANNOY...
HMP BIG
DEAL......RESENT-
MENT...
...WHO CARES......INDIFFER-
ENCE...
SO WHAT...

...SOME...



THE CAPE ©2016 DITKO





72
D2.

CHOICES

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IS
MAN A
RATIONAL
ANIMAL?



IS
MAN NOT
A RATIONAL
ANIMAL?

WHY DO I HAVE TO
CHOOSE?



WHY
ME?
HUH?



WHO CAN
SAY IF IT'S
THE
BEST
CHOICE...



WHO CAN SAY
THIS IS
THE BEST
CHOICE...



A IS A OR A IS NOT A

WHAT
RIGID
CONFINING
RESTRICTING

NO
OTHER
CHOICE
ALLOWED...
DOGMATIC...



BUT
WHAT IS
RIGHT
BEST?

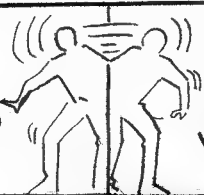
^{BE} FLEXIBLE
MORE FUN

WHAT'S
THE HARM,
PROBLEM,
LOOSEN



UP

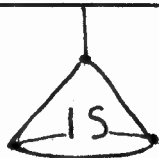
A IS A...
WHAT'S THE
GUARANTEE?
WHO IS TO SAY?
ME!



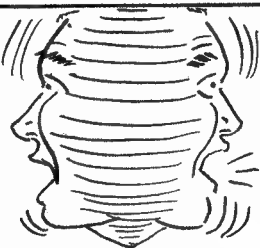
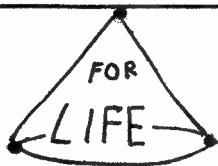
A IS NOT A
BOTH COULD BE
WRONG OR RIGHT,
WHO'S TO SAY?
YOU...

WHO IS GOING TO PROVE IT?
RIGHT... OR...
ME? WRONG...
TAKE MY WORD... YOU?
TAKE YOURS?





WHO HAS THE ACTUAL, ABSOLUTE PROOF?



WHAT GUARANTEE... ..SAYS WHO?

A



ANTI A

WHY DO I HAVE TO JUDGE?

...C...COULD BE...W...WRONG...

EITHER



OR...

CHOOSE...

... C... CAN'T TELL WHICH BEST..WORSE.

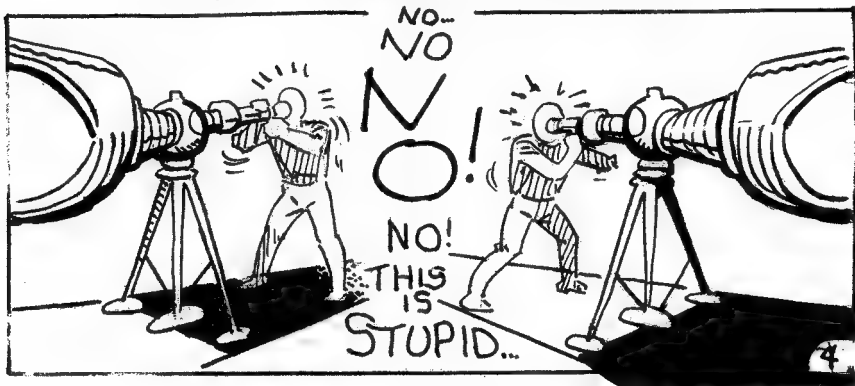
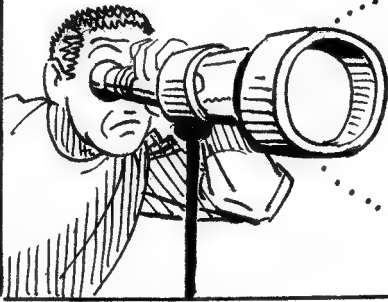
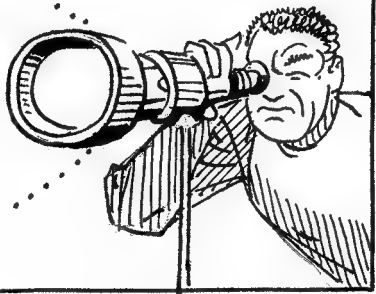


... NO
END...



... NO...

... STILL CAN'T TELL...



NO-
NO

NO!

NO!

THIS
IS

STUPID...

... CAN'T SEE... BE SURE... OF ANY FUTURE GUARANTEE...

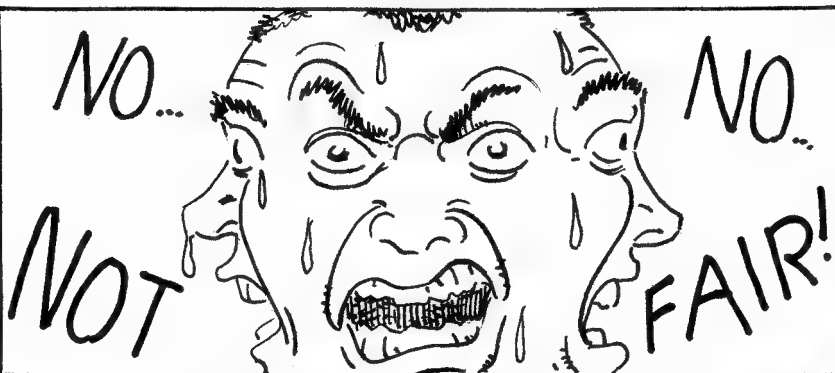
NO GUARANTEE...

WHY
UP TO
ME?
WHY?



OTHERS WISER
THAN ME
SHOULD TELL
ME
GUARANTEE
MY
FUTURE..

... NOT FAIR...



WHY DO I HAVE TO
CHOOSE?

IT'S
NOT
FAIR..



IT'S
CRUEL...

..CLOSE EYES... ..TURN AROUND.. ..TW)ST.. NO! ..TRY AGAIN.. ..NO!



HEADS..TAILS..
....BEST
OUT OF..
THREE..
... OR..



..BEST OUT
OF..
..5...10..
OR...

AHH!

MIND
MADE
UP.

JUST
DO
IT...

*◎#

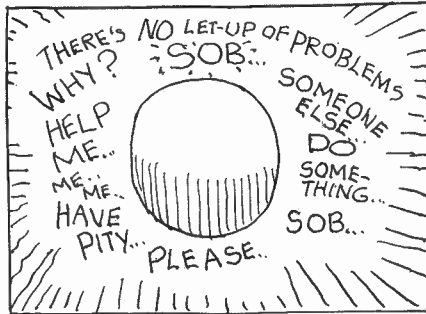
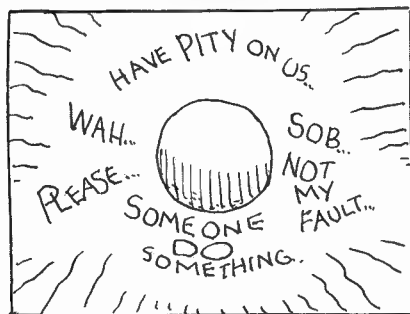
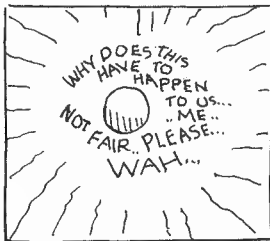
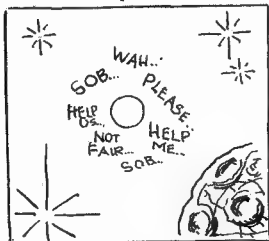


WORRY
ABOUT
IT
LATER..

WHEN
IT'S
TOO
LATE.

2m
06.

...they **NEVER** LEARN... © 2016 Ditko



Y..YES..
YOU WANT..
NEED ME..
YES...GAINING
MORE POWER..

WAAH!
WE'RE ENTITLED..
SOB..NOT FAIR..

SOB OWED SOB

DESERVE SOB
ENTITLED
TO... SOB



WAAH!
PLEASE
HELP US..
SAVE US..
HAVE PITY ON
US..
SOB.



THE

ANNIHILATION

NO

MERCY

OH... HELP...
WAIT...
SOMEONE
IS
COMING...

...IT... IT IS
POSSIBLE... SURE...

YAH...
HA! HA!

OH
BOY...

WHAT
SELF
MADE...
SELF-BLINDEN
FOOLS...

Y...YES...

* * ?
WAIT... WHY
CAN CHEAT NOT
HIM... LIE...
SURE... DECIEVE
DONT BE A
SUCKER...
HEY...
ROB TAKE *
ADVANTAGE...
BE CROOKED...

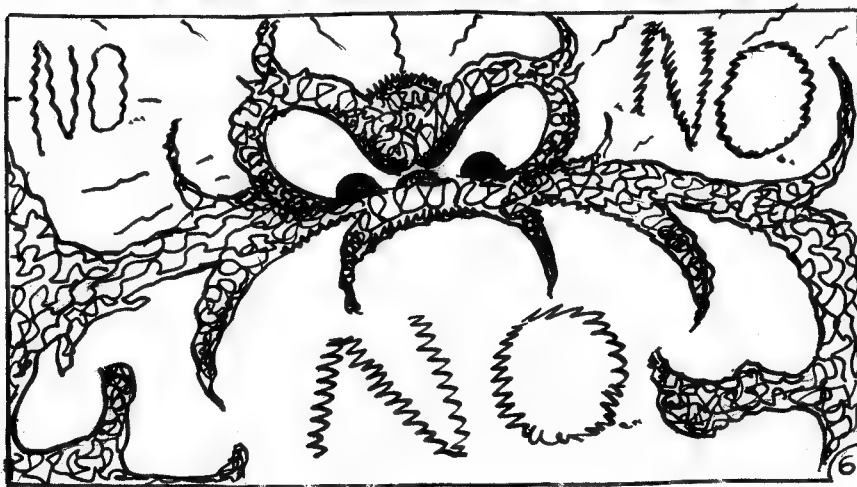
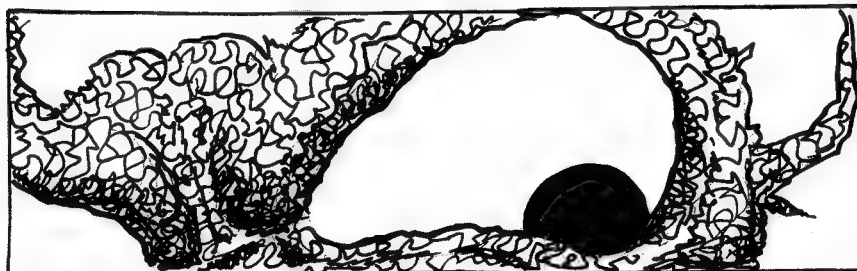
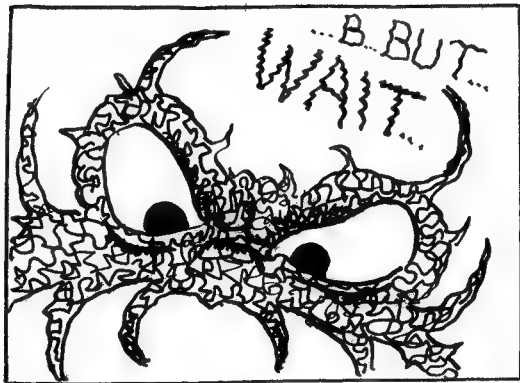
AH!
IS... IT
POSSIBLE...
YES...
YES...
YES...

INVITING
THEIR
OWN
MISERY...
DESTRUCT-
SOR...

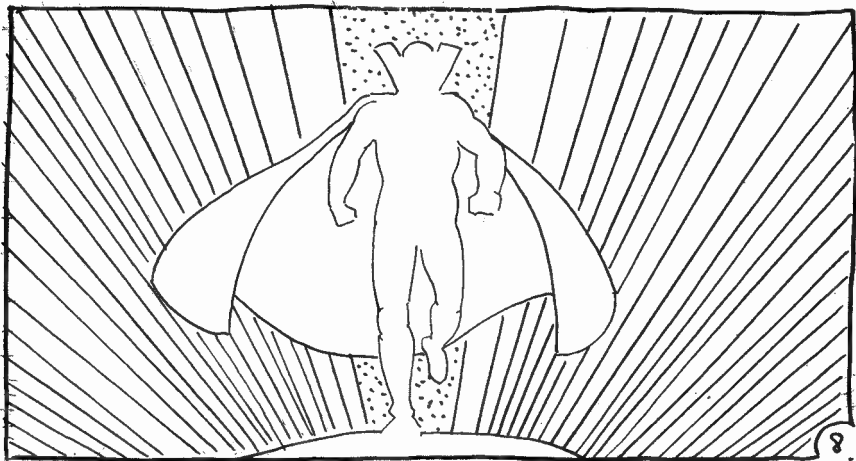
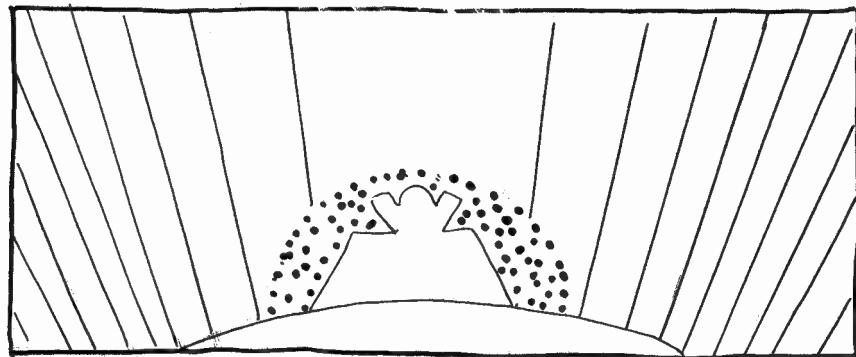
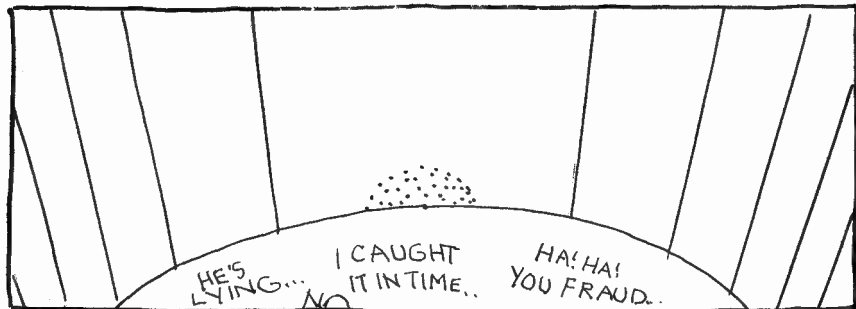
REJECT
THEIR
OWN
IDENTITY...
FOR
LNE...

HA! HA!
DENYING
REJECTING
MAN IS A RATIONAL ANIMAL
...SO MAN MIND HA! HA!
PRACTICING THE
IRRATIONAL ... HA! HA!
SELF-INVITING ALL HIS OWN MISERY
PAIN AND SUFFERING...
DESERVED AND LEARNED...



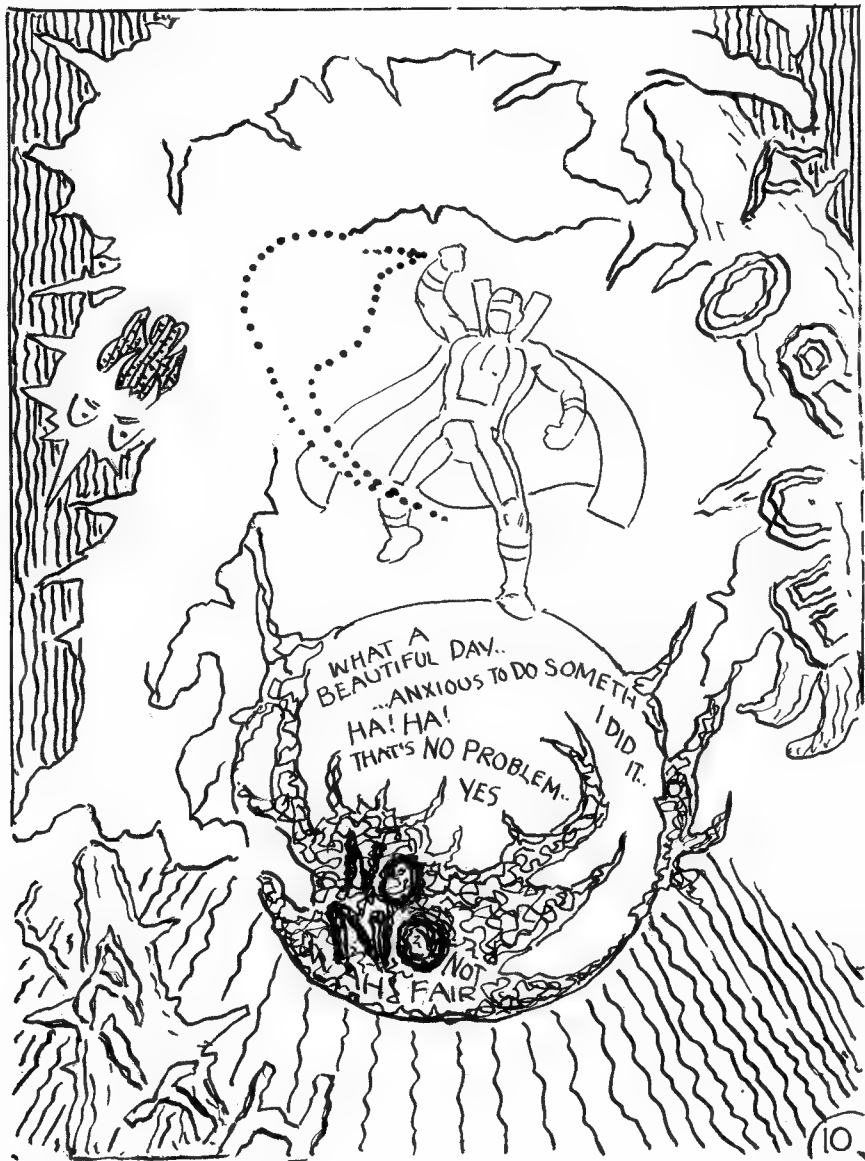








I... I CONFESS
I KNOW... YOU LIAR
YOUR SCAM...
...IT..IT..WAS FOOL PROOF...!
...AT LAST
CAN'T FOOL ME...
SOME JUSTICE
HA! HA! EXPOSED
H..HOW HE FIND OUT?
YOUR DECEITS (9.





BOY,

HA'HA

I FEEL GREAT

...LIAR...

I'M

YOU

GOING TO

CHEAT.

...BUT...
BUT...

TRY.. NO!

ANOTHER CON
EXPOSED!

I'LL DO IT!

NO..

I'M

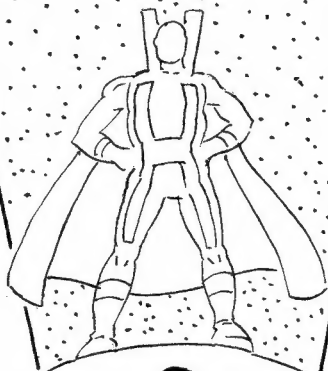
NOT

CONVINCED.

...GUILTY!

SENTENCE

10 YEARS...



A
CHOICE
EITHER

A IS A

COM-
LIES PROMISE
DECEIVE
FRAUD
HONOR
BETRAY
D
S
Z
0/12

Halstead, Tim Burdick, Randall Kirby, Adam Tinworth, Thomas Barichella, Douglas W. McCratic, Andrew Sanford, John Gentil, Omar Pineda, Chet Reams, Jeff Murphy, Thomas Juette,

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Darren Ford (Ditkoclub.com),
Rodney Schroeter (rschroeter@
silentreels.com),
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PHILOSOPHY

VS.

NO- OR ANTI-PHILOSOPHY

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ALL human behavior involves some PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE, some GUIDE to LIVE, ACT IN the REAL WORLD.

PHILOSOPHY means SOMEONE'S PHILOSOPHY: Plato, Marx, pragmatism, A. Rand's OBJECTIVISM. EVERYONE acts on HIS PHILOSOPHY however well known or understood.

Comic books means SOMEONE'S comic books: Marvel, DC, independents, etc.

FOR/AGAINST means SOMEONE'S PHILOSOPHY, MIND, is for/ against SOMEONE ELSE'S MIND/ PHILOSOPHY.

The ANTIS, CBF COMPLAINERS, who choose to remain PHILOSOPHICALLY DUMB and ACT as PHILOSOPHICALLY ENLIGHTENED continue to express THEIR INCOMPETENCE with their LINKING their ANTI-DITKO STORY and ART and A. RAND'S OBJECTIVISM philosophy.

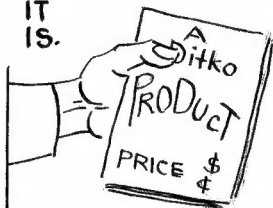
Yet, few CBFs have ACTUALLY READ the articles I have written and the comic books I have written, drawn and PUBLISHED.

FEWER STILL have ACTUALLY READ Rand's "BIG" (CBF complaint) Atlas Shrugged or Rand's other BIG BOOK that explains, analyzes and defends her PHILOSOPHICAL PREMISES, IDEAS, STORIES, THEMES, CHARACTERS and MOTIVATIONS.

Those CBFs are like authors of a BIG BOOK with BLANK PAGES or MEANINGLESS SCRAWLS.

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HERE
IT
IS.



ACCEPT OR *REJECT*
CHOICE



... EXCHANGE ...

